

Bulletin

FEBRUARY 28, 1949

SHEVAT 29, 5709

Celia Adler Featured At Purim Celebration

On Monday evening, March 14th, a Purim party has been planned for the Congregation. The featured entertainer for the evening will be Celia Adler, "first lady" of the Yiddish theatre.

Preceding the party, the traditional reading of the *Megillah* will take place in the auditorium of the Synagogue at 7:30 P.M. Various new members of the Congregation will be called upon to read parts of the story of Esther, to the accompanying noise of *gragers*.

The Purim party, complete with refreshments and entertainment, is being arranged by Mrs. Juliette Levin and Mrs. Helen Luebeck as the Sisterhood's contribution to the observance of this holiday.

Irma Heller Honored At Sisterhood Party

On February 15th Sisterhood held its annual Birthday Party, which this year was known as "Irma Heller Day". It was given in her honor as a small token of the esteem and love which all the members of Sisterhood have for her. This party was a surprise to Mrs. Heller and to the general membership of Sisterhood.

A skit was presented which depicted Irma Heller on trial for stealing the love

Rabbi Kertzer Resigns Position To Head AJC's Interfaith Activities Department

After almost three years of happy association with the Park Avenue Synagogue, Rabbi Morris Kertzer, Associate Rabbi, has accepted the call of the American Jewish Committee to become its Director of Religious Interfaith Activities as of May 1, 1949. In a wider field, Rabbi Kertzer will continue to devote himself, as he has in the past, to furthering the cause of Jewish life and culture.



Rabbi Morris N. Kertzer

of the Park Avenue Synagogue. Several musical selections were rendered by Cantor David Putterman and Mrs. Frances Peiper. Rabbi Steinberg and Rabbi Kertzer both paid tribute to Mrs. Heller on this occasion.

Mrs. Alma Stern directed the skit, while Mrs. Samuel Wimpfheimer was Chairman of the Day and Mrs. Florence Spiegel was in charge of Hospitality.

Rabbi Kertzer submitted his resignation to the Board of Trustees and it was accepted at a meeting of the Board on Sunday, February 27th with regret and with the warm wishes of the Congregation for his continued success in his new duties. His place in the hearts of the congregants is assured. It is expected he and his family will continue their worship and identification with the activities of the Park Avenue Synagogue.

Widely Varied Background

Rabbi Kertzer has offered to serve the Congregation in the pulpit and in any other necessary capacity until September 1st, when it is expected his successor will have been appointed.

When Rabbi Kertzer first accepted his position with the Park Avenue Synagogue he was comparatively fresh from overseas service where he acted as a chaplain with the Army through the invasion of France and Anzio and other fields where he earned his Distinguished Service Cross. Before he returned to native shores, he conducted a tour of overseas Army men through the Holy Land.

Once again in mufti, he became Director of the Hillel Foundation at the University of Iowa, where he also was appointed to the faculty as an Associate Professor of Religion. On the campus he achieved wide popularity and Hillel made great strides under his direction. He left Iowa to come to the Park Avenue Synagogue and the wider field of activity offered by so prominent a Congregation and the associations possible only in a great metropolitan city.

During the years with the Park Avenue Synagogue, Rabbi Kertzer and his charming wife, Julia, have endeared

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sabbath Eve Friday, March 4th, 8:30 p.m.

Rabbi Kertzer will preach on

"Life's Goals"—A comment on "Death of a Salesman"

Sabbath Morning Saturday, March 5th, 10:00 a.m.

Rabbi Steinberg will preach on

"Offerings to the Lord"

Junior Congregation Service at 10:30 a.m.

Musical portion of Services under the direction of Cantor Putterman, assisted by choir. Mr. Isidor Geller at the organ.

Daily Evening Worship 5:45 p.m.

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VOL. 3

No. 9

From The Desk of The President

Dr. E. D. Friedman's Presidential message, presented at the Membership Meeting, January 23, 1949, was of more than topical interest. For this reason, the BULLETIN is proud to present these excerpts from it for wider dissemination.

—Editor's Note

LET us take counsel together.

Have we as a group made real progress this year? Are there more Hebraic patterns in our lives, either in our homes or the Synagogue?

Our rabbis and cantor have worked hard to place the stamp of historic Judaism upon this congregation. It has been built up to a numerically strong membership of which we may well be proud. With the help of some of our members we have done much by way of adult education, we have an active Parents' Association, and have built up a good school. We have an active Men's Club under good leadership, and a splendid Young Folks League. How many of us, however, have responded adequately to such leadership? Our services are not so well attended as they might be, and this in spite of the prevailing five day week for most people. Our leaders and members appear in fact to be indulging in a sort of vicarious Judaism—practiced and lived only through their rabbis.

* * *

This generation of American Jews, in the light of the recent march of historical events, has a rendezvous with destiny. Shall we pick up the torch of Hebraic

New Play To Be Discussed From Pulpit

During the *Shabbat* evening services on March 4th Rabbi Kertzer will speak on "Life's Goals". He will comment on the new Arthur Miller play, "Death of a Salesman", and analyze the character of a man whose objectives in life lead only to frustration, disappointment and lack of purpose.

Rabbi Steinberg has chosen as his subject for Saturday morning, March 5th, "Offerings to the Lord". *Shabbat* morning services begin at 10:00 A.M.

learning and the banner of our ancient traditions or shall we go down to ignominious failure?

The *laissez faire*, drifting policy of our branch of Jewry and the neglect of Hebrew education by all non-orthodox groups have produced a lost generation of Jews, many of whom are marginal people and frightened individuals owing to the absence of anchorage or the sense of belonging to a historic tradition. Nietzsche once wrote: "Woe to him who has no home." Multitudes of young American Jews and Jewesses feel that they have no home intellectually or emotionally. They suffer from a deep sense of alienation and aloneness. Their assumed dichotomy between intense Jewish loyalty and profound American devotion is totally false. The knowledge of and acquaintance with our spiritual assets gives us dignity and courage. . . .

* * *

Every Jewish family should have a library of Judaica. This can be built up easily by joining the Jewish Publication Society of America which publishes a number of volumes of Jewish interest annually, and by the purchase of the recent publications of the Schocken organization.

American Jewry must descend to its source. It must rediscover its Jewish soul and find its destiny in books, particularly those which express the fundamentals of Judaism. As examples of recent books, I would refer to the Schocken volumes entitled *The Language of Faith*, *The Hammer on the Rock*, *a Midraschic Reader*, *Ten Rungs* by Martin Buber, *The First Book of the Maccabees* and *Roads to Zion*. . . .

I would also urge the members of our congregation to keep abreast of present currents in Jewish life and to read the most congenial of such magazines as *The New Palestine*, *The Jewish Spectator*, *The Congress Weekly*, *The Reconstructionist*, *The Menorah Journal*, and *Liberal Judaism*, the official organ of the progressive movement in American Judaism. If only we had a Synagogue house of our own so that we could build up a library of Judaica and maintain current journals of Jewish interest, from which all of us could derive inspiration and instruction! . . .

The time has come for us in American Judaism, as Joshua Liebman put it, to take the spiritual offensive and to establish that our Jewishness has profound ethical and intellectual significance, not only for ourselves, but for all of humanity.

Alfred North Whitehead has said: "For twenty-five hundred years Semites have continuously provided suggestion, novelty and achievement whereby the life of Europe and the Western World never lost the subconscious ideal of progress. Jewish contributions in science, literature and religion are enormous, but the greatest contribution in a certain sense is that Jews continue to be a living people, a living agency, and what can be achieved by a living group is something far transcending that which can be the result of lifeless documents or archeological remnants of Greek and Roman genius.

"The Jews and Judaism are enormously valuable to the world because they constitute a living ferment in the life of civilization, a persistent refusal to worship the idols of state, superstition, and the status quo. The Jews supply ideals beyond conventional habits, and the light of Jewish genius must not be allowed to be quenched, otherwise the light of the world also will flicker and perish."

This from a great non-Jewish philosopher. The lesson to us must be clear! . . .

* * *

There should also be much more in the way of home observance. Parents teach not only by precept but also, and perhaps much more so, by example. For those who cannot always attend services in the Synagogue, it would be a splendid thing to have Friday evening devoted to family reunions—with a spiritual note

struck in the home by the discussion of Jewish topics or the singing of Jewish hymns or songs (*Zemirot*)—instead of attending theatre and card parties, which destroy every vestige of the Sabbath atmosphere and secularize one of the most beautiful of our religious institutions. In the ghetto and wherever Jews lived, all cares were forgotten on the Sabbath and the weekly holiday entered as an uplifting force in the lives of our parents. The Jewish home is the last fortress of Judaism in the diaspora and it should actively reflect Jewish traditions. Parents should so live that the child may recognize that we care for our heritage and are willing to make some sacrifice for our faith.

* * *

Judaism also is not philanthropy alone. *Zedakah* is only one phase of Judaism and here I differ considerably from the leadership of Federation which stresses philanthropy at the expense of more important aspects of Jewish life. Federation should be supported, but those of us who help in this, should give expression to the point of view that the care of the sick and aid to the underprivileged are not the sole concerns of Judaism. When Israel is on the decline, our sages say, it builds temples; when on the ascent, it builds houses of study and education. The latter is one of the crying needs of our own congregation.

* * *

It is also important to bring the God concept into our lives, not only in time of crisis and mourning, but every day. Judaism must be lived and practiced daily, so that it becomes a necessary part of our lives, almost a conditioned reflex.

We recently celebrated the *Hanukkah* Festival. In this holiday we stress not so much the military victory over the Greeks, important as it was, but the triumph of the spirit of the Jewish faith over its pagan enemies. The pagans have always had to visualize their deity. Israel, on the contrary, looks for God behind the universe and, as a God-intoxicated people, makes this eternal quest—which in itself is a religious experience. The Jew seeks God everywhere and every day. This is what our sages meant when they enjoined us to be *mekabel ol malchus shomayim*—not a yoke, to be borne grudgingly but a self-

Parents' Association Plans Open Meeting, March 9th

The Parents' Association is especially proud and honored to announce that it will have as guest speaker, Dr. Isidor Silberman, at the next open meeting, to be held on Wednesday evening, March 9th.

Reports indicate that there is an exceptional interest because of the prominence and reputation of the speaker, who will discuss the subject, "Mental Health and Religion."

Following the talk and question period, there will be a social hour.

discipline from free choice. Our ancestors were not father-rebels, like some immature, inflated egos who can brook no one in power above themselves; they willingly accepted the Ruler of the universe as the father of all mankind. . . .

* * *

And now, to sum up my layman's sermon in practical terms: I would plead first for more active participation in our Synagogue life by our leadership and the membership as well. All those who feel the call should volunteer for some type of work for which they feel themselves fitted. I would also plead for the cultivation of Jewish assets in the home. When our congregation and others in our group will become dynamic units of activity in the Jewish world, we may look forward to an American Judaism worthy of its ancestry and contributing an important spiritual note to our American civilization. . . .

* * *

We are witnessing the footprints of the Messiah: The State of Israel exists once more!

The world was never in greater need of the message of the Jew than it is today. One may indeed hope that out of the travail of Israel there will at long last emerge a new Judaea—duplicating the two previous Jewish commonwealths—from which there will again come prophetic truths and in which there may again be realized the sublime ideals of Israel's faith, to the blessing not only of Israel but of all mankind.

"Not by might, not by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts."

An Open Letter from Sisterhood

Dear All of You:

The mild weather much of this winter has been hinting at spring—a hint which we hope you have noted and taken to heart. For the hint of spring is also a reminder of our very own harbinger of spring (and we don't mean robins)—the spring luncheon.

You all know that Sisterhood plans its entire year of "doing good" around the funds from its *one* annual affair. So there should be little need to emphasize again how important it is, especially for every woman in Synagogue, to back this affair with a little money and some extra effort in selling tickets.

Sensational Musicale

When Wednesday, March 30th, rolls around this year and brings with it a really sensational Musicale and Luncheon, we don't want to hear anyone complaining that she was kept in the dark about the whole thing until too late. Of course, Sisterhood needs *you* to help make this year's luncheon a success. But we think you'll be proud afterward to say you did your share.

Will your smiling face and those of your friends and acquaintances be at the Biltmore, March 30th? Or will you be at home on that day, frowning because you're out of things? Well, a word to the wise. . . .

Expectantly yours,
Another Woman

P.S. For additional books and information, contact this year's sparkling chairman, Mrs. Seymour Wimpfheimer (Vicki, that is). And don't forget to make out your checks to the Sisterhood and send them to Mrs. A. Gotterer at 9 East 96 Street.

Seder Cancelled

Because of the lack of response on the part of the congregation, the proposed Congregational Seder which was to have taken place on April 14th has been cancelled.

The Ritual Committee thanks all those who responded to the questionnaire they received by mail, and assures them that the project will be studied in greater detail for possible execution Passover 1950.

Junior League Plans Gala Purim Carnival

This year the Junior League has decided to celebrate the festival of *Purim* with a gala carnival to be held in the Vestry of the Synagogue on Sunday evening, March 13th at 8:30 P.M.

The Misses Jane Apirian and Barbara Duke have been chosen as Co-Chairmen for the evening, and are now in the throes of extensive plans to make this one of the largest and most successful carnivals the Synagogue has ever enjoyed.

Door admission to the affair has been set at 50c, with all proceeds going to the worthy cause of Youth Aliyah.

Many interesting booths consisting of various types of games will be set up and a large variety of beautiful prizes will be offered. In addition to these prizes there will be a contest to crown the King and Queen.

Births

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Goldstein on the birth of their daughter. The proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Joseph I. Lubin.

A double *mazeltov* to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Robinson on the birth of twin sons, and to the glowing grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Sack.

Anniversaries

Felicitations to Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Sack on their 30th anniversary—Feb. 23; to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Friedman who will celebrate their 44th anniversary of wedded bliss on March 6; and Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Spiegel who will celebrate 20 years of married life on March 7th. Every good wish for years of happiness and health together.

To Mr. and Mrs. David Hoexter on the occasion of their 49th anniversary this month, a hearty *mazeltov*.

Condolences

Our condolences to Mrs. Harold Frankel on the loss of her brother, Philip Bernstein.

The community of Engelwood N. J. recently paid public tribute to Judge Abram Lebson for outstanding service to every phase of the city's philanthropic and communal activities.

Brunch for Seminary Drive

A Brunch has been scheduled for March 13th at the Hotel Bolivar in connection with the drive for the Jewish Theological Seminary. Mr. Isaac Liberman has been selected to Chairman the Seminary Committee, with Mr. Starkman as Co-Chairman.

Letters will be sent to the entire synagogue membership giving all details.

Rev. W. H. Melish To Address Men's Club

The next Men's Club meeting, Tuesday evening, March 15th at 8:45 P.M. is expected to be one of great significance.

Following a general business meeting, Rev. William Howard Melish will be presented as the guest speaker. His topic will be "Freedom of the Pulpit".

The Rev. Melish is the Assistant Rector to, and the son of the Rev. Dr. John Howard Melish of the Holy Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church in Brooklyn. Rev. Melish has been a controversial figure for several years because of his outside activities as Chairman of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship.

Refreshments and social hour will follow and all the men of the Congregation and their friends are invited to attend this meeting.

Young Married Groups Announce Meeting Dates

Young Marrieds A were hosts to Young Marrieds C at a meeting to be held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ochs, Jr., 360 First Avenue, on Sunday evening, February 27, at 8:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be one of the heroes of the battle of the Negeb.

Young Marrieds B will meet Tuesday, March first at the Lester Metzgers' home, 219 West 81 Street, at 8:30 p.m. Continuing the series on "Israel Today," the speaker will be Mr. Daniel Waldstein.

Books of a Jewish nature are urgently needed for our school library. Both children and adults are urged to empty their book shelves and contribute all the reading material that can be spared.

Rabbi Kertzer Resigns Accepts Executive Post

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themselves to all the members of the Congregation. When they came to New York they had only their daughter Ruth, who has always been an active and prominent member of the Hebrew School. They now also have a son who will soon be vying for honors in Sunday School—anyway in four or five years he will.

Details of the honors to be accorded Rabbi Kertzer will be contained in the next issue of the BULLETIN. The Park Avenue Synagogue will continue to express to Rabbi Kertzer and his family the warmth which it enjoys toward them and which the Kertzers reciprocate.

Teen Age Dance To Be Held On March 20th

The entertainment for the next Teen Age dance to be held on Saturday evening, March 12th, will be provided by Robert Jay and his Trio.

This event has been arranged for teen agers from Class 7 through Confirmation II, with another dance at a later date being planned for those registered in Seminars I and II.

Admission to this event, which is under the chairmanship of Mrs. I. E. Gevirtz, is by invitation only. Those registered in the Seminar classes who wish to attend should contact the chairman at her home, 9 East 96th Street, New York City 28, N. Y.

Dr. E. D. Friedman Honored By N. Y. U.

The annual dinner of the N.Y.U. College of Medicine Alumni Association was held on the eve of Medical Alumni Day, Monday, February 21, in the Hotel Biltmore, with Dr. E. D. Friedman of the Class of '07 the guest of honor. Dr. Friedman was honored for his 40 years of teaching service.